



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114-2119

Mitt Romney
GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Stephen R. Pritchard
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

**For Immediate Release
June 8, 2006**

**Contact: Vanessa Gulati
617-626-1119**

FARM –FRESH PRODUCE ABUNDANT AT BAY STATE FARMER’S MARKET

Annual Listing Available on State Ag Department Website

Massachusetts farmers' markets are open and overflowing with an abundance of locally grown and produced foods. To help consumers find a nearby market, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources has updated its directory of the farmers' markets currently operating in cities and towns across the Commonwealth this season. Most markets are already open, with others opening now through the beginning of July.

The Department of Agricultural Resources publishes an annual list of Massachusetts farmers' markets that provides days, locations, times and opening and closing dates for each market. The list is available on-line at http://www.mass.gov/agr/massgrown/farmers_markets.htm. A printed copy is also available by calling the Massachusetts "Down on the Farm" Line at 1-877-MASSGROWN.

"Both consumers and farmers are happy to be back," said Hannah Freedberg, Community Outreach Director of the Federation of Massachusetts Farmers' Markets. "I know I am thrilled to finally see local food."

Not only are farmers' markets a great place for business and trade, but they also provide a location where communities can gather and socialize. Among other things, farmers and consumers can discuss food production, nutrition, and preparation of local produce.

This season has been particularly fruitful for start-up farmers' markets, with 9 new farmers' markets open for business. "This is quite a significant increase in just one year," states Douglas Gillespie, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Agricultural Resources.

New farmers markets can be found in the following communities:

Bristol County
Dartmouth

Franklin County

East Charlemont

Hampshire County

Amherst//Boltwood Marketplace

Easthampton/Memorial Hall

Middlesex County

Belmont

Cambridge/Harvard University

Plymouth County

Carver

Marshfield

Suffolk County

Dewey Square/Boston (Boston Public Market)

Revere Beach

At these festive outdoor markets, shoppers will find an array of freshly harvested fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers, as well as a variety of other local farm products such as maple, honey, eggs, turkey products, farmstead cheeses, baked goods and jams and jellies, all sold directly by the farmer. Farm-fresh fruits and vegetables found at farmers' markets are typically harvested the same day or within 24 hours of sale, thereby allowing consumers access to the freshest produce available.

Most farmers' markets continue to the end of October with some staying open through Thanksgiving.

###